

YATES

2621 Harding Avenue
Waco, Texas
June 23, 1967

Mr. Jim Garrison
Office of the District Attorney
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Garrison,

I have followed with interest your investigation into the Kennedy assassination, and am writing you at this time to provide information which may or may not prove valuable to you.

First, I must make it perfectly clear that I am not suggesting that the persons herein mentioned were in any manner involved in the event, but they were all involved in anti-Castro Cuban activities in the Dallas area shortly before the assassination and one of them, Ioran Hall, was specifically mentioned in the Warren Report.

I have not volunteered this information to the authorities before for a number of reasons. First, there was no connection in my mind between the anti-Castro Cuban activities in Dallas in 1963 and the Kennedy assassination until after I had read the Warren Report, wherein Mr. Hall was mentioned. Secondly, at the time of these events, I was on probation for a federal firearms violation, and consequently was hesitant to come forward until after my probation was completed two years after the assassination. Thirdly, I am not positive that there is any connection between the anti-Castro movement and the assassination, and do not wish to implicate innocent persons unnecessarily.

I have never been questioned by either state or federal authorities, which seems to indicate that Mr. Hall's activities in the Dallas area in September and October of 1963 were not investigated with any degree of thoroughness.

Early in 1963 I became interested in anti-Castro Cuban exile activities when an article appeared in the Dallas Morning News regarding a group of ex-Castro rebels who were engaged in the training of Cuban exiles in Florida preparing for a possible invasion of Cuba. Mentioned in this article were Mr. Wally Welch, a local Dallas business man, and Gerry Patrick, who was supposedly training Cuban exiles in Florida.

After reading the article, I called Mr. Welch and he invited me to come to his office and talk with him. I did so, and during the conversation he told me that he, Gerry Patrick, and one Ioran Hall had fought with Castro forces in the overthrow of Batista, not knowing at that time that Castro was a Communist.

He (Welch) was upset about Castro's betrayal of the Cuban people and was intent on making amends for having helped Castro take over in Cuba. He felt that the answer to the whole Cuban problem lay in a counter-revolutionary invasion of Cuba with the main purpose being the overthrow of the Castro regime. He felt that I would be valuable in such a movement because of my experience in the medical field and my access to sorely needed medical supplies. Before I left his office, he promised to call me when either Patrick or Hall was back in Dallas.

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A short time later, Mr. Welch telephoned me at my place of employment and told me that he was abandoning his open activity in the support of Cuban exile movements because he had been threatened by federal authorities. He had been told that if he continued in such operations, his citizenship would be in jeopardy because of violations of the neutrality act.

Dad
Still later (in May or June of 1963) Welch once more called me at work. This time he told me that Loran Hall was in Dallas and that he wanted me to meet Hall. I agreed to meet Hall outside my place of employment when I finished work for the day, and I did so. Hall introduced himself to me, and since he was driving his own car, a two-toned blue 1955 or 1956 Oldsmobile, I suggested that he follow me to my home in Mesquite where we could talk at length.

any previous mention
Hall did not have a place to stay in Dallas, so I suggested that he stay at my house, which he decided to do. He told me and my wife that he was in Dallas to help raise money to finance the purchase of arms and equipment for a proposed invasion of Cuba by a group of exiles, who were then training in Florida, specifically in the Florida Keys, namely Big Pine Key and No Name Key. Patrick, who was mentioned to me before by Mr. Welch, was assisting in the training of this group, and Hall had been assigned to raise the needed financial support.

Hall had in his possession at this time navigational maps of Cuban harbors and coast line which he said were to be used to plan demolition activities to be carried out by frogmen prior to the actual invasion. These maps were stolen from some federal office in Miami according to Hall.

He suggested to me in subsequent conversations that I help him to raid a National Guard armory to obtain the sorely needed weapons and ammunition. This I declined to do, so that he dropped the subject and never referred to it again.

According to Hall some man had given the Cubans permission to use his farm for a training site in the Dallas area, and he (Hall) wanted me to help instruct the men in first aid practices with which I was familiar. This individual who donated the land was never named specifically in our conversations.

Hall also insisted that he, too, had been threatened by federal authorities if he persisted in his activities with the Cubans. He had been a member of Castro's forces like Welch and Patrick, and was extremely bitter regarding the CIA betrayal of the Brigade invasion of Cuba. He said that the Brigade had not been given the support that it had been promised, and that Kennedy, who had withheld support, was a traitor to the cause of Cuban liberty.

Hall spoke fluent Spanish and was supposed to be a personal friend of the Cuban leader Manolo Rey. During the time he stayed at our home, Hall made a great show of writing Rey about activities then underway in Dallas, but he never made any attempt to mail this letter, and still had it in his possession when he left two or three weeks later.

Hall stayed at our house for almost three weeks, going out very little during the day light hours, and for short periods at night. He never contacted Welch during this period, which seemed odd since they were supposedly personal friends and Welch knew he was in Dallas. Once upon returning to the house, Hall said that he had contacted a 'wealthy Dallas oil-man' who was interested in the project, but he did not name this individual.

Hall made several attempts to contact Larry Groves who had written the aforementioned news article, in order to get some newspaper publicity. As far as I know, he never was able to contact Mr. Groves, at least not during the time that he stayed in my home.

My wife and I began to be suspicious of Hall because he made so little effort to carry through on the things that he said he was going to do. He seemed to be more interested in watching TV and getting free meals than in securing financial backing for the Cubans. Finally I told him that I wanted some proof of his activities or else I wanted him to leave. He offered no proof and without the least argument packed his few belongings and left. Where he went at that time, I do not know.

The activities in Florida, of which Mr. Hall seemed to know so much and in which he was supposedly involved, were described in an article appearing in the June 8, 1963 Saturday Evening Post, although this article was not known to me until much later. The article was written by Harold H. Martin, and mentions a Gerald Patrick Henning and No Name Key. Mr. Patrick and the Gerald Patrick Henning are one and the same individual, and he is also referred to in the book 150 Questions for a Guerilla by General Alberto Bayo.

*also interesting to note
Robert K. Brown - editor of Bayo's
book
see attached letter W.G.*

In September, 1963 Mr. Hall once more appeared at my home in Mesquite. My wife was quite surprised to see him since we had had no contact with him since he left earlier in the summer, and since he came during the day while I was at work and completely unannounced. This visit occurred during the week of 23rd to the 28th of September. The date is firmly set in my mind because on September 15 my wife had given birth to our fourth child and my mother stayed in our home for the following week, returning to her home on September 21st. My wife went back to work on October 1st, so that the visit had to occur sometime during the week of the 23rd to the 28th, and at the same approximate time that Hall and two other men visited Mrs. Odio according to her testimony to the Warren Commission.

At this time Hall was accompanied by a large burly Latin-appearing man. At first my wife had difficulty recognizing Hall because he was much thicker than on his previous visit earlier in the summer. He was extremely tanned, and unkempt, wearing 'tiger suit' fatigues which were his usual attire. In addition, both Hall and the man who accompanied him, wore full beards. Hall had been clean-shaven during his previous visit. When my wife told him that I was not at home, Hall said that he wanted to talk with me and would contact me.

As he left my wife noticed that his car had been painted black so recently that the finish was still shiny. She did not see any trailer, which Hall testifies that he had at this time.

Hall called me at work and asked me to meet him at the Dallas Motel where he was staying, which I agreed to do. I am not sure of the name of this motel, but think it was the Starlight Motel, and I do not know its location in Dallas. However, after I had talked to Hall, my wife called. She told me of Hall's visit to the house, and she said that she was afraid that Hall might be in trouble with the authorities because his car had been painted, he was acting suspiciously, and he had grown a beard and changed his appearance as if to avoid recognition. She persuaded me to change my plan of meeting Hall at the motel because of her uneasiness about him. I called Hall at the motel and told him that I would be at home that evening and that he could come over if he wanted to see me, that I preferred not to come to the motel.

Later that evening he came to my home accompanied by the large burly latin-man of that afternoon, and another small latin-appearing man, who according to Hall spoke no English. Both of his companions were as unkempt in appearance as Hall and were supposedly Cuban exiles who were training for the Cuban invasion. Although the smaller of the two companions was supposed not to be able to understand any English, he reacted during the subsequent conversation as if he understood a great deal of what was being

said. I want to make it clear that none of these three men in any way resembled Oswald. Both Hall and the larger of his two companions were much heavier than Oswald and much darker in complexion. The small man, though his physical make-up was similar to Oswald in that he was short and thin, was so definitely latin in appearance that he could never have passed as an Anglican. I do not think that it could possibly been the same man that accompanied the other two men to the Odio apartment from the description that Mrs. Odio has given.

Hall did not introduce his two companions except to identify them as two Cuban exiles. He said that he had been into Cuba since his visit earlier in the summer, and that the invasion plan was still underway. According to him the CIA was harrassing their activities and making it extremely difficult to get in and out of Cuba by boat. Informers had been placed in their midst so that the Coast Guard knew when they were going to try to get a boat through to Cuba, and very often stopped the boats, seized them, and arrested their occupants. The CIA and the federal government were also harrassing the exiles who joined the movement, by cutting off welfare benefits to the families of those men who were proved to be actively engaged in the training operations. Hall told of having gone into Cuba during the summer and meeting with guerrilla forces who were operating in the mountains, and of having been made a comandante in the exile operations.

Hall was violently opposed to the US policy in Cuba and felt that Kennedy was working against Cuban freedom rather than for it. Hall also said that there was much argument among the Cuban exile leaders and that this constant bickering made operations extremely difficult. He also stated at this time that it was possible for the Cubans to assassinate the dictator of Haiti and take over that island as a base of operation nearer Cuba.

Hall told us that they had secured the financial backing of some prominent people, both Cuban and Americans, and that he was still in the process of procuring money and supplies. He planned to visit with some professors at the University of Dallas who were Cuban exiles and sympathetic to the cause. He did not mention any of these individuals by name, but as always talked in very general terms.

I had at this time a small amount of ammunition and a quantity of medical supplies which I had been able to procure from various medical salesmen. Since I still did not trust Hall, I told him that I did not have anything that he needed and did not know where he could get anything. Upon hearing this, Hall left without argument.

Hall appeared again the next morning early and asked me once more to give him any supplies that might help in the cause and which

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he seemed to be fairly certain I had in my possession. I, once more, told him that I did not have any of the things that he needed. He left after mentioning that he was traveling regularly between Florida and California, through both the New Orleans and Dallas areas, and would contact me again.

Sometime later, in October, Hall once more visited my home and pleaded with me to give him what supplies I might have. On this visit he was accompanied by a Caucasian male, who much more closely resembled Oswald, than his companions of the previous visit. They stayed for only a few minutes so positive identification of his companion would be impossible. I told them that I had severed all my relationships with the Cuban exile movement, so they left.

This is the last time that I saw Hall. He did not return to my home from the time he left until I moved from Dallas in May of 1964. I received no further contact from him or any of the other people who were involved, and until I read the Warren Report, I had no idea that any of these people were in any implicated in the assassination of the president.

I do not wish to state that the man who accompanied Hall in October was Oswald, but rather that he could easily have been mistaken for Oswald, and could possibly be the man who was introduced to Mrs. Odio as Oswald. Hall never introduced anyone to me as Oswald and never mentioned the name in conversations which we had. His companion of October is the only one with whom I saw him, who could possibly be construed as Oswald, or for that matter was even Caucasian in appearance.

Attached you will find a list of names of individuals who were said to have been engaged in this movement along with their addresses at this time. Where these individuals are at this time I do not know, since I have had not contact with any of them for over three years.

Enclosed you will also find a copy of a letter from Gerry Patrick Fleming to Mr. Wally Welch, which came into my possession during this time, and which describes the activities in Florida.

Whether Hall was actually engaged in these activities, I do not know. He said he was and that is all I know.

I hope that this information will help you in your attempts to arrive at the truth. My main concern is that Mrs. Odio was asked to identify the man whom she met in September from old photographs and Hall's appearance in September was so drastically changed at that time that it would be difficult to identify him from photographs taken earlier in the summer. Only on this one occasion did I ever see Hall wearing a beard and looking so unkempt.

Handwritten note: He was never seen again

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This letter contains all the information which I have. I will be happy to clarify any questions you have regarding it, but I do not want to be harrassed or badgered for further facts because I simply do not know anything else.

Sincerely yours,

Wiley G. Yates
Wiley G. Yates

Wally Welch
702- Iron Gate Lane LA-6-5192

His office (employment service) 6170 Sherry Lane EM-3-6391
He also owned the D-B lounge FI-1-9037

Gerald Patrick Henning
c/o Old Wooden Bridge Fishing Lodge
Bid Pine Key, Florida

or

Gerry Patrick
c/o Davis
3350 NW 18th Terrace
Miami, Florida

Gerry Patrick
Apt 2
1036 SW 5th Street
Miami, Florida

I was also told that I might contact Patrick by calling:
San Diego, California
NE-4-1373
Give the code name MIAMI and would be told
Patrick's location.

Operation Counterthrust
Box 369
Boulder, Colorado

This organization has the same address as
a book sales house owned by Bob Brown
mentioned in the enclosed letter.

I was also asked to try to contact No Name Key or Big Pine Key
by way of my ham radio outfit and to say that I was calling for
Wally Welch, and to give the names Bernie Papy (or Pappy) and
Knox Julian.

It is also of interest that the names WALLY, PAF, and BERNIE
all appear as instructors of the Guatemalan training program
for the abortive Bay of Pigs Brigade. They are all mentioned
in the book, BAY OF FIGS, by Haynes Johnson.